

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-05 USSS-00 SCCT-01

OMB-01 ISO-00 /106 W

----- 083900

R 211927Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5448

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, UN, CO, VE

SUBJECT: CALL FOR SPECIAL UN MEETING ON ANTI-TERRORISM BY PRESIDENTS  
LOPEZ AND PEREZ

REF: CARACAS 13367 (NOTAL)

1. THERE ARE CERTAIN PUZZLING ELEMENTS IN THE POST-VIENNA  
CALL FOR UN DISCUSSION OF TERRORISM. THE INFORMAL TRANSLATION  
OF THE CHRISTMAS EVE JOINT STATEMENT BY THE TWO PRESIDENTS  
PREPARED BY AMEMBASSY CARACAS (CARACAS 11367, )  
STATES THAT THE PRESIDENTS HAD BEGIN QUOTE AGREED TO  
PROPOSE FORMALLY TO THE UNITED NATIONS THE CONVENING OF A SPECIAL  
MEETING TO ANALYZE THE PRESENT GROWING LACK OF SECURITY AND  
TO APPROVE A TREATY WITH CONCRETE NORMS IN ORDER TO PREVENT AND  
CONDEMN RAPIDLY AND SEVERELY ACTS OF TERRORISM END QUOTE. THE  
REFERENCE TO QUOTE A SPECIAL MEETING END QUOTE WAS TAKEN BY THE  
PRESS TO REFER TO A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY, AND WE NOTE THAT IN LATER DISCUSSIONS EMBASSIES  
BOGOTA AND CARACAS HAVE ASSUMED THAT A SPECIAL GA SESSION IS WHAT  
THE TWO PRESIDENTS HAVE HAD IN MIND.

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2. AS REPORTED USUN 6971 ON 24 DECEMBER, VENEZUELAN

AMB. CONSALVI SAW SYG WALDHEIM ON THAT DAY AND TERRORISM WAS MENTIONED. HOWEVER, THE SECRETARIAT INFORMS THAT CONSALVI MADE NO REQUESTS FOR A GA SPECIAL SESSION. NEITHER THE VENEZUELAN NOR COLOMBIAN MISSIONS HAS REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT TO BEGIN POLLING THE UN MEMBERSHIP ON A POSSIBLE SPECIAL GA SESSION (THIS IS WHAT IS ENVISAGED BY THE GA RULES OF PROCEDURES WHICH REQUIRE THE AGREEMENT OF A MAJORITY OF THE 144 MEMBERS TO CALL A SPECIAL SESSION). THE LACK OF PRECISION OF THE JOINT STATEMENT AND THE LACK OF FOLLOW-THROUGH HERE SUGGESTS THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT CURRENTLY CONSIDERING AN INITIATIVE FOR A SPECIAL ASSEMBLY SESSION.

3. THE ONLY POSSIBILITY FOR A SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE FOR A GA SESSION WOULD BE IF A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF OTHER SMALLER COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA AND ASIA AS WELL AS LATIN AMERICA, WOULD JOIN IN A COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT SEEMS BEYOND REASONABLE ANTICIPATION AT THIS POINT IN TIME GIVEN THE ARAB ATTITUDE ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND THE AFRICAN POSITION ON SO-CALLED NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN "COLONIAL" AREAS. THESE TWIN CONCERNS WOULD OPERATE TO PRODUCE THE SAME STALEMATE AS IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON TERRORISM WHICH THE GA ESTABLISHED IN 1972. (THE COMMITTEE HELD ONE SESSION, IN 1973, WHICH WAS COMPLETELY UN-PRODUCTIVE, AND THE ASSEMBLY HAS NOT AUTHORIZED ANY FURTHER SESSION SINCE THAT TIME, NOR WOULD WE SEE ANY PURPOSE AT THIS TIME IN TRYING TO GET THE COMMITTEE TO MEET AGAIN.) IN EARLIER CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE, THE ARABS WOULD NOT EVEN CONSIDER AGREEING TO AN APPEAL, HOWEVER GENERALIZED, FOR AN END TO TERRORIST THREATS TO THE LIVES OF INNOCENT PEOPLE UNLESS IT WERE TO CONTAIN BROADLY STATED EXCEPTIONS FOR PALESTINIANS SEEKING TO RECAPTURE THEIR "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS," TO LIBERATE "TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY FORCE," ETC. THE AFRICANS WOULD CONSIDER ANTI-TERRORISM ACTION BY THE GA ONLY WITH EQUALLY BROAD EXCEPTIONS FOR PERSONS SEEKING "THE REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION," AND SO FORTH. THESE SAME DEMANDS WOULD, OF COURSE, BE MADE WITH EQUAL INSISTENCE IN THE DRAFTING OF ANY ANTI-TERRORIST TREATY OR CONVENTION OF THE SORT MENTIONED IN THE LOPEZ/PEREZ JOINT STATEMENT, AND WHICH THE U.S. HAS EARLIER CALLED FOR.

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4. THE INACTION OF THE COLOMBIAN AND VENEZUELAN MISSIONS HERE LIKELY REFLECTS AN AWARENESS OF THESE FACTORS, AS WELL AS RECOGNITION THAT IN VIEW OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL REVIEW THIS MONTH OF THE MIDDLE EAST, RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, A MAJORITY OF THE UN MEMBERSHIP WOULD NOT AGREE TO A SPECIAL ASSEMBLY SESSION ON TERRORISM. THE ARABS AND RADICAL AFRICANS WOULD KILL THE IDEA EITHER BY REFUSING OUTRIGHT TO AGREE OR BY INSISTING ON AN AGENDA THAT WOULD FOCUS

ON "PALESTINIAN RIGHTS" AND THE "RIGHTS OF THE COLONIAL PEOPLES," AND ONLY SECONDARILY ON TERRORISM. SUCH A SPECIAL SESSION WOULD NOT FURTHER UNITED STATES INTERESTS, AS SEEN FROM THIS VANTAGE.

5. ALTHOUGH WE ARE DISSATISFIED WITH THE WAY MATTERS STAND, AS IS ANYONE CONCERNED BY THE TERRORIST OUTRAGES THAT HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE AROUND THE WORLD, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A REALISTIC POSSIBILITY FOR EFFECTIVE ANTI-TERRORIST ACTION AT THIS TIME THROUGH THE MEANS OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. FOR THAT MATTER, PUT IT DOWN THAT THE GA AS NOW CONSTITUTED IS ON MOST ISSUES A HOPELESSLY UNCONGENIAL FORUM FOR U.S. INTERESTS.

6. WE WANT ON THE OTHER HAND TO BE ALIVE TO ANY POSSIBILITY OF INSERTING INTO SECURITY COUNCIL WORK CONDEMNATIONS OF TERRORISM AND THE LOSS OF INNOCENT LIFE, AND IT MAY BE THAT WE CAN HELP MAKE SUCH OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. WE SHOULD ALSO SEE WHETHER FURTHER SPECIFIC MEASURES, SUCH AS THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS (WHICH THE U.S. HAS STILL NOT RATIFIED), MAY PROVE FEASIBLE. HOWEVER, AGAINST THE MIDDLE EAST "SOUTHERN AFRICAN BACKGROUND AND BEARING IN MIND THE LIMITATIONS OF OUR PERSPECTIVE, WE THINK THE BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO SHARE WITH COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA OUR APPRAISAL THAT THE WAY TO ADVANCE THE INITIATIVE OF THE TWO PRESIDENTS WOULD BE FOR THEM AND OTHER LA FRIENDS TO BEGIN SEEKING TO WIN OVER NECESSARY AFRICANS AND ASIAN SUPPORT, AND TO ASSURE OF U.S. READINESS TO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT IN WAYS COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA MAY CONSIDER USEFUL.

MOYNIHAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TERRORISM, MEETINGS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976USUNN00208  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760024-0324  
**From:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760134/aaaabeba.tel  
**Line Count:** 145  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 CARACAS 13367  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CALL FOR SPECIAL UN MEETING ON ANTI-TERRORISM BY PRESIDENTS LOPEZ AND PEREZ  
**TAGS:** PINS, PFOR, CO, VE, UN, (LOPEZ MICHELSON, ALFONSO), (PEREZ, CARLOS ANDRES)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006